

# TAX COLLECTOR IN ROLE OF AUCTIONEER

Annual Sale of Property in  
Arrears for Taxes In-  
augurated.

WILL CONTINUE FOR TEN DAYS

Mr. E. G. Davis, in Opening the Sale,  
Said District Was to Be Congratulated  
in Having So Many Buyers Present—  
Five Lots Sold at \$3,500 Each.

The annual sale of property in arrears for taxes since November 1 of last year began yesterday in the office of the Collector of Taxes in the District Building. Taxes due for the first half of the present fiscal year or prior to that time have been listed under the law and will be sold to the highest bidder during the next ten days.

The sale is conducted by Mr. Charles W. Collins, Deputy Collector, who acts as auctioneer. Among those present at the opening of the sale were Messrs. C. H. Wiltse, of Rochester, N. Y.; G. A. Kappell, of Chicago; William H. Manogue, of Baltimore; J. Thompson, Capt. S. C. Demer, James F. Hood, J. B. Nichols, and H. P. Davis.

Collector Davis Makes a Speech.

Mr. E. G. Davis, Collector of Taxes, in opening the sale, said the District was to be congratulated in having so large a number of buyers present. He said the object of the sale was to dispose of the property and to give the municipality the benefit of the proceeds. Mr. Davis expressed the opinion that all the property offered would find purchasers, and that the District would be relieved from bidding in so large an amount as in recent years.

Mr. Davis then outlined the rules which would govern the sale, emphasizing especially the regulation that each buyer should at the close of the sale each day deposit with the auctioneer an amount equal to the aggregate of his purchases. He suggested that it was best, in order to avoid daily deposits, that each one should deposit a lump sum equal to his intended purchases during the entire sale.

Objects to Farce Bidding.

Mr. Davis called attention to what he termed "farce bidding." He said that in former years it had been customary for persons to bid up some of the pieces of property to fabulous prices. For example, on one occasion an item of tax of \$10, he said, was bid up to something like \$30,000. This, he said, tended to detract from the dignity of the place and the occasion, and he requested that those participating in the sale refrain from such procedure.

The first piece of property offered was bid in by Mr. Wiltse, but in spite of what Mr. Davis had said competition soon started the bidding. Five lots in square 4, valuable pieces of property, were offered, on which the overdue taxes, with penalties and expenses, ranged from \$18 to \$50, and the lot was knocked off to Mr. Wiltse.

Within five minutes another contest was started over \$76.36 against part of lot 2, square 42. When the excitement was over the clerk recorded a bid of \$45,000, and the lot went to Mr. Wiltse.

Payment of Surplus.

Under the law governing tax sales the surplus bid over and above the tax and expenses is not paid, unless after two years the holder of the certificate wishes to avail himself of the privilege of taking out a tax deed. Then the surplus must be paid, and it passes eventually over to the owner of the lot as the purchase price of the property.

Mr. Davis yesterday in commenting upon the bidding up of the taxes to such fabulous sums said it was a question whether these gentlemen were not laying themselves liable to breach of contract. "Suppose," he said, "a suit should be filed to compel the bidders to carry out their bids at the end of two years and take their deeds after paying the surplus bid. How would the courts decide?" Mr. Davis thought it was a poor rule which would not work both ways, and he intimated that some of these ready bidders might wake up some morning without cash to make good their rash ventures.

In other words, the courts of the District may be called upon to decide whether a person bidding in a delinquent tax is not required by law to make good at the end of two years to pay up and take out his tax deed.

## STRUCK BY A TRAIN.

James Harvey Found Unconscious in  
Anacostia Freight Yards.

Bleeding from innumerable cuts about his head, James Harvey, a resident of Prince George County, Md., was found lying unconscious beside the railroad tracks in the Anacostia freight yards shortly after 6 o'clock yesterday morning by James Loveless, a laborer. He was removed to the Washington Asylum Hospital in the patrol wagon. His injuries are serious.

It is thought that Harvey was struck by one of the early morning freight trains.

Some trouble was experienced by the police in establishing the injured man's identity, and it was not until a late hour yesterday afternoon that his name was known. His relatives have been notified.

PUMPING STATION BIDS.

Contract for Switchboards Awarded to  
Johnson & Morton.

The District Commissioners have received from the Electrical Engineer a schedule of the eight proposals for switchboards for the Trumbull Street Pumping Station. He recommends that the contract for the two boards be awarded to Johnson & Morton at the price named in their proposal—\$2,415. So far as the department knows the firm is a reliable one and capable of making the boards in accordance with the specifications.

The alternative bid of \$2,300 of the General Electric Company is not according to the specifications and the Electrical Engineer says it should not be considered. The company proposes to furnish instruments not recommended by the Electrical Department of the District and to arrange the switches and instruments differently from the plan.

Mr. W. A. McFarland, Superintendent of the Water Department, has consented to the recommendation that the contract should be awarded to Johnson & Morton.

## NOT ENTITLED TO REFUND.

Auditor's Report Upon the Demand of  
the Corcoran Estate.

Mr. C. F. Wollard, attorney for the W. W. Corcoran estate, recently requested the District Commissioners to refund the amount paid on April 19, 1929, in excess of the revised assessments against lot 8, and the west part of lot 2, square 752.

Mr. J. W. Daniel, the special assessment clerk, reported upon the application, and suggested that the matter be referred to the Auditor for his consideration and report.

Mr. T. T. Petty, the Auditor, has not submitted to the Commissioners a statement in which he says: "The request of Mr. Wollard that the District take upon itself the task of searching its records in order to ascertain whether they show indebtedness to the estate is unusual and one which good administration would constrain the Commissioners to deny, even were there reason to believe that such indebtedness existed, which, however, is not the case."

"As the special tax on lot 8, in square 752, was not paid by the late W. W. Corcoran until April 19, 1929, it is clear that he could not have demanded a drawback under the act of June 27, 1929, and also equally clear that his estate is not now entitled to a refund, as claimed by its legal representative."

"I therefore recommend that the claim be disallowed."

This recommendation the Commissioners have approved.

## NEGROES ON TRIAL FOR CONSPIRACY

Alleged Plot to Blackmail  
Capital Traction Company.

George McGinnes Said to Have Offered to  
Sell Evidence in Damage Case—Com-  
panion Claims to Be Attorney.

The trial of Llewellyn W. Pulles and George McGinnes, charged with a conspiracy to defraud the Capital Traction Company for testimony in connection with the death of Charles Thomas, colored, in case suit was brought against the road.

The specific charge against them is that they endeavored to secure \$300 from the Capital Traction Company for testimony in connection with the death of Charles Thomas, colored, in case suit was brought against the road.

It is explained that Thomas was killed, April 14, 1931, at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Seventeenth Street, in September defendants visited Mr. Dunlop, one of the attorneys of the Capital Traction company, and requested that he should deposit a lump sum equal to his intended purchases during the entire sale.

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## WILL OF ROBERT H. GUNNELL.

Leaves Estate to Wife Conditioned on  
Her Not Remarrying.

The will of Robert H. Gunnell, dated May 12, 1896, was filed for probate yesterday. He leaves to his wife, Mrs. Caroline Gunnell, all his estate, for life or so long as she remains unmarried. It is directed that she receive the income for the maintenance and education of their children. She is, however, empowered to sell or convey all or the property, if it becomes necessary.

Upon the death or remarriage of Mrs. Gunnell, it is directed that the estate be divided equally among the four children.

CHILD FATALLY BURNED.

Was Playing With Box of Matches Dur-  
ing Mother's Absence.

Winifred Burton, twenty-one months old, was fatally burned at her home, 316 C Street northwest, yesterday morning as the result of playing with a box of matches during the absence of her mother, who was in an adjoining room. Before the mother could reach the child her clothing was a mass of flames and she was fatally burned about the head and body.

Dr. Battle was hurriedly summoned and he applied a soothing preparation, after which an ambulance was summoned and the little one was removed to the Emergency Hospital for treatment. The surgeons at the hospital worked hard to save the little one's life, but in spite of their efforts the child died.

The affair has completely prostrated the mother, who is herself now under the physicians' care.

Marriage Licenses Issued.

Augustus C. Durbin, of Chicago, and Annabelle Hughes, of the District of Columbia, were married yesterday.

Robert Edglin and Lizzie Williams, of the District of Columbia, were married yesterday.

Constance Gordon and Rebecca Dodson, of the District of Columbia, were married yesterday.

James E. Sheahan and Catherine H. Gabrin, of the District of Columbia, were married yesterday.

Ernest Ball, District of Columbia, and Edna Davis, Alexandria, Va., were married yesterday.

Charles Boyle and Marie Bloom, of the District of Columbia, were married yesterday.

Mandamora White and Harriet Ann Douglas, of the District of Columbia, were married yesterday.

Henry Ford and Alberta Woodland, of the District of Columbia, were married yesterday.

Henry Glotzbach and Ida M. Piling, of the District of Columbia, were married yesterday.

Thomas Warring and Clara M. Pilgrim, of the District of Columbia, were married yesterday.

Maurice Enright and Katherine Ann Boylan, of the District of Columbia, were married yesterday.

Frederick Frederick Wyckoff, of the District of Columbia, was married yesterday.

George Robey, charged in a case of the Water Department, was charged in a case of the Water Department.

Mr. W. A. McFarland, Superintendent of the Water Department, has consented to the recommendation that the contract should be awarded to Johnson & Morton.

## DISTRICT COURT RECORD.

Equity Court No. 1, Justice Hagner—19,752, Filbert vs. Crawford; reference to auditor ordered. 19,599, Banks vs. Beach; sale decreed. Fulton, Edwards & Lyon, trustees, to sell.

Equity Court No. 2, Justice Bradley—23,222, Goldborough vs. Macfarland; restraining order returnable April 23, 1932. 23,222, Goldborough vs. Macfarland; restraining order returnable April 23, 1932. 23,222, Goldborough vs. Macfarland; restraining order returnable April 23, 1932.

Circuit Court No. 1, Chief Justice Dingham—United States (194 vs. 44,416) vs. Clegg et al.; jury sworn as to Clegg and Surtz Company; verdict for plaintiff for \$3,022.57. Hyde (18 vs. 144,279) vs. Cox; same jury. 51 trial.

Circuit Court No. 2, Justice Clabaugh—40,322, Barnach vs. Ancestoria and Potomac River Railroad Company; jury sworn and verdict for plaintiff for \$40 judgment thereon. At defendant's cost, 44,005, Bennett et al. vs. National Union; jury sworn, 45,757, Smith, administratrix, vs. Georgetown and Tenleytown Railway Company and District of Columbia; motion of plaintiff in open court for leave to file amended declaration, granted.

Probate Court, Justice Barnard—Estate of John Weil; petition of executrix to be allowed to substitute special bonds; order allowing executrix to substitute special bonds. Estate of John Weil; petition of executrix to be allowed to substitute special bonds; order allowing executrix to substitute special bonds. Estate of John Weil; petition of executrix to be allowed to substitute special bonds; order allowing executrix to substitute special bonds.

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## WORK OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY IN MARCH

Ranks Second in Country for  
Prosecutions.

GOLD MEDALS FOR POLICEMEN

To Be Awarded to the Two Securing  
Largest Number of Convictions for  
Cruelty in Each Precinct—Cash Prizes  
for Articles on Humane Work.

The regular monthly meeting of the executive committee of the Washington Humane Society was held Monday. A large number of the members were present.

Mrs. Kennedy made an interesting report on the number of prosecutions for cruelty to animals made by other humane societies throughout the United States, as compared with the work of the local society, and it was found that the Washington society stood second on the list.

The society received a donation of \$1,000 and it was decided to appropriate part of this money for the purchase of gold medals to be awarded to the officers of the regular police force securing the largest number of convictions in cases of cruelty during the year beginning April 14.

Gold Medals for Policemen.

There are ten police precincts, and the plan is to award two medals in every precinct. The value of each medal is \$30, and the two officers securing the largest and next largest number of convictions. This will absorb \$800 of the donation.

The \$200 balance will be offered as prizes for written articles relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals, the promotion of kindness to animals, etc. It will be divided into two prizes of \$100 each, which will be offered each month for the best article received that month until the \$200 has been awarded.

The following is now open to all. The conditions are that the articles must not be more than 400 words in length and that all articles submitted shall belong to the Humane Society for publication if it is desired to use them. A committee selected from the editorial staffs of Washington papers will decide what articles are entitled to the award.

The articles should be addressed to the president of the Humane Society, Warner Building, 1010 F St. N. E., and signed by the author. The articles should be submitted not later than the last day of each month.

Law suits filed—45,331, Charles R. Cover vs. the Southern Railway Company; damages, \$20,000. 45,332, Gwendolen G. Barnard vs. the Southern Railway Company; damages, \$20,000. 45,333, Gwendolen G. Barnard vs. the Southern Railway Company; damages, \$20,000. 45,334, Gwendolen G. Barnard vs. the Southern Railway Company; damages, \$20,000.

Children's Cases Investigated.

The number of children's cases investigated numbered 30, in which 38 children were involved. The following disposition was made: Sent to Industrial Home School, 1; Home for Foundlings, 1; committed to Board Children's Guardians, 1; cases amicably adjusted, 19; still under investigation, 6.

Small Animals Humanely Put to Death.

The report of the agent who has in charge the collection of the small animals was as follows: Number of cats humanely put to death, 97; number of dogs humanely put to death, 71; number of dogs humanely put to death, 6. Total, 274.

## "The Home of Credit."

SALE  
MATTING,  
CARPETS,  
RUGS,  
GO-CARTS

WE OFFER this week  
special attractions,  
comprising—

3,000 ROLLS MATTING,  
1,500 FIBRE RUGS,  
85